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Docket No.: 21879-00063-US1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Gretchen Terri Lapidus Lavine et al.

Application No.: National Phase of PCT/MX04/000054      Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith      Art Unit: N/A

For: IMPROVEMENT TO THE PROCESS FOR      Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
GOLD AND SILVER LEACHING WITH  
THIOUREA SOLUTIONS

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**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.